THE BEST OF THE FIRST FOUR ISSUES!!!

# COMIC BOOK HEAVEN

SLG PUBLICATIONS • $1.95 ($2.95 CAN)

## FLEE, PUNY HUMANS!

SECRETS OF GIANT MONSTER COMICS!

RUINED ROMANCE!

MANLY MEN!

The Cruel World of Devil Dinosaur!

# My Comic Book Heaven

Great Caesar's Ghost! I like comic books. You know, the ones with cities with fake names, talking gorillas, giant monsters, sort of nasty bad guys, and smiling good guys. The good kind. I can't be certain, but I believe my reaction to the first comic book I ever saw was a slow expelling of disbelieving air.

"Whaaat isss thisssssss?!"

Somehow the combination of purple prose, stripped down art, absurd situations, and lousy production values just seduced the heck out of me. For years afterwards the hair on the back of my neck would stand up every time I saw comic books.

I bought my first comic when I was 9 or so. It cost "only" fifteen cents. Money was a rare commodity so my comics were precious and cherished. I read them all. Reread them all. Re-re-reread them all. As my collection slowly grew I found that I could enjoy my comics simply by placing them in a small pile and admire its size, heft, and even its smell (weird, I know, but musty old newsprint really takes me back). A summer day and a stack of comic books. Those were the lazy days of my comic book heaven.

Later, as I got older, the thrill faded somewhat. Later still, I became an honest-to-gosh comic book artist - it was my job! - and the thrill got killed, bludgeoned, smothered, torched, sliced, diced, and buried in a block of cement.

Well, I thought that was kind of sad. Wanting to find a way to rekindle my warm affection for comic books I produced an issue of Comic Book Heaven, a modest self-published fanzine that took a slightly cockeyed look back at the comics of my happy youth.

There have been seven issues so far and the best material from the first four is included here (with re-scanned art, a new layout, and some corrections and additions).

That Comic Book Heaven seemed to hit a nerve with those, like me, who miss "the old days" has been great. But I've been pleasantly surprised by the reaction of readers too young to have seen these comics new. It seems that the fun, weird, stupid, goofy, and naive comics of years ago still have the power to entertain. And that is something to celebrate too.

Enjoy.

***DESIGNED, WRITTEN, AND ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT SAAVEDRA***

**Comic Book Heaven** is published by Slave Labor Graphics. Editorial content copyright © 1998 by Scott Saavedra. Originally published in slightly different form by Scott Saavedra as **Comic Book Heaven** Nos. 1 - 4. All characters, logos, and trademarks are owned and copyrighted by their respective companies. All Rights Reserved. **Printed in Cananda**

**This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever.**

## FLEE, PUNY HUMANS! IT'S--

# MONSTROUS MARVEL!!!

I used to think that all those great Marvel giant monster comics of the 50s and 60s had the same plot and dialog! As the chart on the next page clearly shows, I was wrong. But how wrong? -- *HOW WRONG?*

# THE MONSTROUS

| Monster | Description | Human Reaction | Goal |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Gor-Kill** | The Lurking Demon | "There is no place! No place to run! Gor-Kill is everywhere! We are lost!" | "Food!! I must have more food!!" |
| **Grottu** | King of the Insects | "Aieee! It's the demon ant!" | "Hurry! When we have finished here we will go to the great city that stands by the water! That is the next step in my plan to conquer mankind!" |
| **Gruto** | The Creature From Nowhere | "The creature—we know nothing about him, except that he's frighteningly huge and hideous!" | "Must think...where am I from?? Why have I come to Earth? What was my mission? If I could only remember...remember..." |
| **Haag** | Hunter of Helpless Humans | "It's not safe to walk the streets!" | "I constantly roam the universe in search of new game to hunt! I am delighted to have found earth, a planet with so many living humans for me to stalk...and to capture!" |
| **Taboo** | The Thing From the Murky Swamp | "Bullets are useless! They can't hurt mud!" | "You earthlings thought to destroy the mighty Taboo! Now you will pay for your folly! Now you will feel my vengeance!" |
| **The Brute** | That Walks | "Run—Run while you can!" | "Now—Now I must pay a call on Sally Barton! I must show her what has become of the weakling whom everyone laughed at!" |
| **Titano** | The Monster that Time Forgot | "We are doomed! The legends say: When Titano rises from the deep, let the world beware!!" | Unknown |

# MARVEL CHART!

| Boast | Final Words | Publication |
|---|---|---|
| None | "But I saved the world...(sob) I saved the world!" | **Tales of Suspense** #12 (Nov. 1960) R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #1 (Jan. 1970) |
| None | "Well, that's the end of Grottu! You know—it's poetic justice! That monster ant met the very fate that he had planned for all mankind!" | **Strange Tales** #73 (Feb. 1960) R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #3 (May 1970) |
| "I come from a distant galaxy! From the planet, Pacion Rex! Our world is the most advanced in the galaxy! We have infinite knowledge and wisdom! We know the secret of living in peace...the secret of eternal life [blah, blah blah]..." | "Maybe one day he will forgive us!...Maybe one day he will return...I can only hope...only hope!" | **Journey Into Mystery** #67 (Apr. 1961) R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #11 (Sep. 1971) |
| "Behold, humans—you are captives of Haag, the greatest hunter in the universe!" | "Now that I too have learned how it feels to be the quarry, I shall never hunt again!" | **Tales of Suspense** #37 (Jan. 1963) R: **Weird Wonder Tales** #12 (Oct. 1975) |
| "Nothing can withstand the might of Taboo! NOTHING!" | "We don't know [what miracles await us in the distant galaxies] but one day we'll find out! One day, when we take our place among the stars!" | **Strange Tales** #75 (Jun. 1960) R: **Where Monsters Dwell #5** (Sep. 1970) |
| "Run, fools! Run from me! Flee for your very lives! For no one can withstand my onslaught! Do you hear?? NO ONE!!" | "My notes, my growth serum, I will destroy everything, forever! How lucky I was that the monster man soon faded away! But I should have known that in her wisdom Nature never permits anything evil to long endure!" | **Journey Into Mystery** #65 (Feb. 1961) R: **Where Creatures Roam** #1 (Jul. 1970) |
| Doesn't speak | "Yes, Titano will menace us no longer! But I wonder about the centuries to come—if that glacier should ever thaw!! What then? WHAT THEN?" | **Tales to Astonish** #10 (Jul. 1960) R: **Tower of Shadows** #7 (Sep. 1970) |

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST! IT'S A QUICK LOOK AT

# EXCLAMATIONS!

***The Green Lama utters the classic incomplete sentence. Artist:* Mac Raboy. *From an uncredited reprint—possibly* Green Lama *#8 (Mar. 1946)—in* Daring Adventures *#17 (1964) © Super Comics***

## "HOLY HAT!"

–Lois Lane, grizzled newspaper veteran.

*Superman's Girl Friend, Lois Lane* #63 NPP (Feb. 1966)

## "BY THE RING OF NEPHROS!"

– Kranak at sudden appearence of Ra-Man.

*House of Secrets* #80 NPP (Sep.-Oct. 1966)

## "UNHOLY COW!"

–Jimmy Olsen when turned into a Bizarro.

*Superman's Pal, Jimmy Olsen* #80 NPP (Oct. 1964)

## "BLACK PLUTO'S CAVES!"

– Diana (Wonder Woman) Prince.

*DC Special* #3 NPP (Apr.-Jun. 1969)

## "GREAT GOSH!"

–Tough bad guy upon seeing "ghost" of Batman.

*World's Finest Comics* #139 NPP (Feb. 1964)

***Below, Menthor blurts out another favorite of writers in* THUNDER Agents *#4 (1966) © Tower***

## I LIVED TO FACE THE DOOM OF THE

# MARVEL & DC MONSTERS!

Marvel wasn't the only publisher to feature giant monster stories. DC Comics also had its share of big creatures. The differences, as well as some unexpected similarities, help to illuminate the editorial character of each company. Read on, if you dare -- READ ON!!!

WHERE MONSTERS DWELL
15¢ 2 MAR
WHERE MONSTERS DWELL
"I CREATED SPORR, THE THING THAT COULD NOT DIE!"
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
FASTER! FASTER! IF SPORR BREAKS FREE, WE ARE LOST!
LOOK!! THERE IS NO WAY TO STOP SPORR! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US NOW?

© MEG

© DC COMICS

***Marvel Comics is well known as a prime purvayor of 50s-era giant monster stories. DC Comics showed a penchant for enlarging its superheroes and supporting characters long before Fin Fang Foom caused "puny humans" to flee. The covers reproduced above merely begin to hint at the differences that marked the two companies approach to bigness. Both covers feature multi-tentacled blobs and castle walls (other common locales were tiny European villages, New York city, and countrysides). The Marvel monster has a colorful name with doubled-up consanants (as they so frequently did) whereas the DC monsters has a typical quasi-scientific carnival sideshow description (and by the way, that sure is a pretty big "micro-menace" isn't it?).***

# GIANT MONSTER MARVEL

| Monster | Description | Attributes | Human Reaction | Goal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Bruttu** | | Big, strong and hairy | "Holy Smoke! A giant!" | Show gentle side |
| **Diablo** | The Demon from the Fifth Dimension | Big, strong and smoky | "Flee for your lives!! The demon creature has come to destroy us!" | Destroy mankind |
| **Dragoom** | The Flaming Invader | Big, strong and flaming | "I-It's beyond belief!!" | Rule Earth |
| **Glop (a.k.a. the Glob)** | | Big, strong and gooey | "It is larger—more hideous than Doctor Frankenstein's creation!" | Eat & collect intelligence for invasion force |
| **Gomdulla** | The Living Pharaoh | Big, strong and all wrapped up | "Our offerings do not please Gomdulla! He is angry!" | Unknown |
| **Groot** | The Monster from Planet X | Big, strong and tree-like | "He wants to kill us! Shoot him! Shoot him!!!" | Take an "earth village" to his planet for study and experiments. |
| **Sporr** | The Thing that Would Not Die | Big, strong and tentacled | "It is a thousand times worse than Frankenstein's creation!" | Eat a lab coat |

# COMPARISON CHART

# MONSTERS

| Boast | Last Words | Printed In |
|---|---|---|
| None | "I'll never again want to be anything but what I am!" | **Tales of Suspense** #22 (Oct. 1961)<br>**R: Fantasy Masterpieces** #3 (Jun. 1966) |
| "For ages, I remained silent, gathering my strength, harnessing the energy of the elements, until now, I am again Diablo, master of time and space!!" | "It was this cigarette lighter..." | **Tales of Suspense** #9 (May 1960)<br>R: **Monsters on the Prowl** #30 (Oct. 1974) |
| "I am the mightiest life-form in the universe!! My fire contains the energy of the stars!! I can change my shape at will—become any size—and my life-span is—forever! I am Dragoom, the all-powerful!! | "I guess I finally did prove that monster movies have some value!" | **Strange Tales** #76 (Aug. 1960)<br>R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #2 (Mar. 1970) |
| "I am all-powerful!" | "And so ends my fantastic tale—except for the nagging fear that I cannot erase—the fear that one day others like the Glop may return!" | **Journey Into Mystery** #72 (Sep. 1961)<br>R: **Where Creatures Roam** #7 (Jul. 1971) |
| "I am all-powerful!" | "How wrong! How wrong can a man be when he doesn't know the facts!" | **Journey Into Mystery** #61 (Oct. 1960)<br>R: **Monsters on the Prowl** #12 (Aug. 1971) |
| "Fools, it is useless to resist! Groot is all powerful! First, I will command the distant trees to move..." | "Oh, darling, forgive me! I've been such a fool! I'll never complain about you again! Never!!" | **Tales to Astonish** #13 (Nov. 1960)<br>R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #6 (Nov. 1970) |
| Strong, silent type | "I will no more tamper with secrets which belong to Nature herself!" | **Tales of Suspense** #11 (Sep. 1960)<br>R: **Where Monsters Dwell** #2 (Mar. 1970) |

GIANT MONSTER

# DC COMICS

| Monster | Story Title | Attributes | Human Reaction |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Krono** | We Were Menaced by the Thing from the Deep | Big, strong and scaley | "Great plankton! That's not Purvis...it's the arm of some creature thing!" |
| **Mopsy** | The Beast with 3 Lives | Alien can change its shape 3 times | "Monster! Monster! Kill the thing!" |
| **Prof. Eric Fielding (or is it?)** | Something's Alive in Volcano 13! | Giant man with beard | "There's your living thing, professor—a giant!" |
| **The Creature** | The Fantastic Camera Creature | Alien can project pictures of its thoughts | "A...A huge creature!" |
| **The Machine** | The Monster that Changed Our Lives | Multi-purpose device | "*Gulp* N-Never seen anything like it! I'd better call Sheriff Townsend!" |
| **Tolax** | Meet Your Masters — the Ants | Giant intelligent ants | Sabotage |
| **Xoll** | Giants of the Cosmic Ray | Really tall aliens | "Gosh! Look at the size of that creature!" |

# COMPARISON CHART

# MONSTERS

| Goal | Boast | Last Words | Publication |
|---|---|---|---|
| Get Magnetite ore | "Now I am master of this ship..." | "Yes, Purvis, and if it hadn't been for a local kind of seaweed used for hut roofs, you might still be an exile, too—down at 5,000 fathoms!" | **My Greatest Adventure** #65 (Mar. 1962) |
| Protect itself | None | "Poor Mopsy—he meant no harm...he was just afraid! Why couldn't anyone else have realized that?" | **House of Mystery** #99 (Jun. 1960) |
| Protect others | "Whr-rum" | "Ironic that we tried to save him, but, he, instead, saved us!" | **House of Mystery** #83 (Feb. 1959) |
| Protect a badguy | None | "I see that earth law officers are brave and resourceful!" | **House of Mystery** #125 (Aug. 1962) |
| Revive alien | "Whr-r-rrr-rr!" | "Really, four lives were changed, for the better!" | **My Greatest Adventure** #60 (Oct. 1961) |
| Prove that tiny humans are a danger | "The fools! If they only realized the danger, we could prepare ourselves in time!" | "The fools! If they only realized the danger, we could prepare ourselves in time!" | R. **From Beyond the Unknown** #8 (Dec./Jan. 1970-71) |
| Advance scout for invasion force | "We have made ourselves immune against your atomic weapons!" | "It wasn't effective—until I got within ten feet of the giant! I didn't know that — but neither did they!" | R: **From Beyond the Unknown** #2 (Dec./Jan. 1969-70) |

## MARVEL MONSTER CLOSE UP : STORY STRUCTURE

**Standing about 10 feet tall, Orrgo is quite a bit shorter than most Marvel Monsters. But in many other respects "Orrgo, The Unconquerable!" reprinted in *Fear* #2 (Jan. 1971) is a typical example of the monster story form.**

**1) Establish your monster, hero or setting.**
"It is July 19 1973 on the planet Earth...Men are at their jobs..."

**2) Monster encounters hero and/or general populace.**
"I have come to conquer your world!"

**3) Panic ensues.**
"Let's get out of here — while we still can!"

**4) Monster attacks or flees but in both cases wreaks havoc.**
"I shall mentally change the atomic structure of those primitive aircraft! Let them become birdlike!"

**5) Nobody gets hurt(See Close-Up: Frenzied Wrath).**
"The ice will not harm them! It will just keep them immobile until my task is done!"

**6) Monster destroyed or chased away, usually in an ironic fashion.**
"Here, Jo-jo have another banana! You've earned it!"

**7) A lesson is learned.**
"...Such is the fabric of which tales are woven! Such are the workings of an unpredictable destiny!"

# MARVEL MONSTER CLOSE-UP : FRENZIED WRATH

AND FOR THE HAPLESS VICTIMS, THERE WAS NO HELP... NO RELEASE... UNTIL THE MIGHTY GROGG HAD RENDERED THEM UNCONSCIOUS!
ONE BY ONE HE STUNS ALL OUR MEN! HE IS MIGHTIER THAN AN ARMY!

***Even the largest, angriest monsters rarely take a human life—not even a God-less Communist life—as seen in this panel from "From Out Of The Black Pit Came...Grogg!"* Reprinted in: Where Monsters Dwell *#27 (Mar. 1974). Art: Jack Kirby & Dick Ayers.***

## MARVEL MONSTER CLOSE-UP: LONGSHOTS

***Extreme longshots are a fairly standard occurrence in most monster stories and practically a trademark of Jack Kirby's work in the genre. Two longshots in one story is pretty rare, however. The icons on the top illustrate a meeting in an apartment while on the bottom is a meeting at an Air Force base. From Foes #2 (Jan. 1971).***

VERY WELL, I'LL BE GIVE YOU IT MUST VE JUST BEEN A ONE IN A MILLION COINCIDENCE SORRY WE BOTHERED YOU MISTER BENTLEY
WHEW! SO AM I!
YOUR STORY AND THE ACTUAL EVENTS S... ST A REMARKABLE COINCIDENCE! HOWEVER WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT'S WHY WE ASKED YOU HERE! DID YOU KNOW THERE WAS A FLYING MONSTER AT THE TIME YOU WROTE YOUR STORY?
NO I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT IT! IT WAS JUST WHAT YOU SAID - A COINCIDENCE!
THEN AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED, THE CASE IS CLOSED!

# ME AM WEIRD

## SOME OF THE STRANGEST COMIC BOOK STORIES EVER

**Jimmy Olsen's Weirdo Wedding!**

*Superman's Pal, Jimmy Olsen* #100 / NPP / Mar 1967

e: Mort Weisinger

Jimmy Olsen tries to get Lucy Lane to notice him. He drinks a "Super-Physique Formula" but it wears off and he gets punched out. Jimmy proposes to Lucy and she accepts. Jimmy is called to the future where Duo Damsel, Saturn Girl and Light Lass all pretend to be heartbroken over his impending wedding. Superman builds Lucy and Jimmy a huge mansion with a private movie theater and heliport. Lois Lane tearfully wonders if Superman will ever propose to her. Superman turns into a giant mole and interrupts the wedding. Jimmy finds time to become Elastic Lad

**Quote:** "I must be dreaming, maybe someone slipped me a dose of LSD!" - Jimmy Olsen, after Lucy accepts wedding proposal.

**The Infinite Evolutions of Batman and Superman!**

*World's Finest Comics* #151 / NPP / Aug 1965 / a *Curt Swan & George Klein* / e Mort Weisinger

An Evolution-Accelerator from Krypton falls to earth. Batman turns it on and evolves into a future man with elongated fingers and a huge bald head too large for his bat-mask. He turns the ray on Superman but devolves him (he doesn't want another super-mind around to rival his own). Superman grows long hair and a beard and carries a large club around. The devolved Superman beats up a bus (he thinks it's eating people) and grabs Lois Lane by the hair to cook for him in his cave

**Quote:** "Well, I am, you stupid young dolt!" - Future Man Batman's reaction to Robin's disbelief of his identity.

**Quote:** "He's not like Batman at all! He's cold, ruthless, emotionless...evil!" Robin's reaction to Future Man Batman's reaction.

**Batgirl's Costume Cut-Ups!**

*Detective Comics* #371 / NPP / Jan 1968 / a *Gil Kane* e Julius Schwartz

Batgirl lets the Sports Spoilers Gang (they use sports gimmicks to commit crimes in Gotham City) get the best of her because of her "feminine traits." She saves the day by showing off her "gams" which causes the bad guys to stop dead in their tracks.

**Quote:** "I'll be a crook catcher first, and a glance catcher second!" Batgirl turns over a new leaf

***About creative credits:*** *I have, for the most part, relied on the comic books themselves for credit information. When possible, I list the names of uncredited artists and writers in italic type when their contributions are fairly obvious or have been uncovered by other research.*

**The Bizarro Invasion of Earth!**

NPP / Reprinted in *Superman* #202 / Dec.-Jan. 1967 e Mort Weisinger

An army of Bizarros ("Bizarro Code. Us do opposite of all earthly things!") go to a "Parisian art museum" and put an arm back on the Venus de Milo, repair the crack on the Liberty Bell, and straighten the leaning tower of Pisa. With the exception of the first panel, the is only one other place in the story with the letters "D" and "C."

**Quote:** "Beat it, fast, Bizarro Legion! Me see a sparrow!" - Bizarro #1

**The Supergirl-Batgirl Plot!**

*World's Finest Comics* #169 / NPP / Sep 1967 / a *Curt Swan & George Klein* / e Mort Weisinger

Batgirl steals the Bat-Cave, Supergirl steals Superman's Fortress of Solitude and his superpowers. Superman hitchhikes and gains beard stubble. Batman happens by in the Bat mobile and picks up Superman. Batman then discovers that he now has a blond crew-cut. The Batmobile blows a tire and so the Man of Steel and the Darknight Detective try to change it but the spare tire's got a hole in it too. Supergirl throws meteors at Superman while Batgirl attacks Batman with giant scissors.

**Quote:** "Excuse me, but there's something on your chin my fist!" - Robin, to a thug

**Jimmy Olsen, The Bizarro Boy!**

*Superman's Pal, Jimmy Olsen* #80 / NPP Oct 1964 / a *John Forte* / e Mort Weisinger

Jimmy Olsen wears a Bizarro mask to fool Prof. Potter, "the zany inventor." Prof.

ALL NEW STORIES
FROM THE MOON TO MARS OUT TO THE DISTANT STARS YOU'LL NEVER FIND MORE COURAGEOUS AND EXCITING NEW HEROES THAN THESE MEN OF THE SPACE AGE!
SGT. BEEFY BROWN- RUGGED, ROWDY-- BUT A RIGHT GUY
CAPTAIN KIP McCOY-- WITH AN EYE FOR ADVENTURE AND A YEN FOR ACTION
FIGURES FARADAY- GET IN A JAM--AND HE'LL FIGURE A WAY OUT OF IT WITH ANY SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE AT HAND!

***The way comic book characters used to be introduced. Art:* Jack Kirby and Al Williamson. *From* Blast-Off *#1 (1965). TM & © Harvey Features Syndicate***

Potter is fooled and shoots a ray at Jimmy causing him to really turn into a Bizarro ("Bizarro Code: Us do opposite of all earthly things!"). Jimmy writes stories about trash being thrown away, invades clubhouse of "loyal Jimmy Olsen fans, and burns down his house Jimmy is exiled to the Bizarro World where he is paid with lumps of coal and all the streets are called Bizarro Blvd. He wants to be committed to a mental institution but is kicked out. Bizarro Superman sells breakfast cereal on television.

**Quote:** "Do you, Bizarro-Olsen No. 1, promise to hate and scorn this ugly Bizarro broad as your wife?" - Bizarro Justice of the Peace

### Superbaby's Search for a Pet!

*Superboy* #130 / NPP / Jun 1966 / Reprinted in *100-Page Super Spectacular* #15 / Mar. 1973 / a. George Papp / s. Otto Binder / e-E. Nelson Bridwe

Superbaby , the "Tot of Steel," bursts out of the earth to "play trick" on his mother. Superbaby wants a pet. His foster parents, the Kents, take him to the zoo. A gorilla throws a hose nozzle at Superbaby's head. Superbaby releases a tiger. The next day, Superbaby is swallowed by a whale and flies, still inside the whale, around a bit. Superbaby then uncovers a underwater "fissure opening into a sub-sea" and releases a mutant "semi-intelligent" dinosaur. The mutant dinosaur tries to kill Superbaby and then takes it home to his family keep as a pet. He escapes to a small planetoid where he meets a shape-changing creature who turns into a bear, lion, alligator and a "Battery Beast" (it looks like a square fox with electricity shooting antennae)

**Quote:** "Kangaroos are so odd, Martha!"- Pa Kent to Ma Kent while at the zoo

### The Cheetah's Thought Prisoners

*DC Special* #3 / NPP / Apr. Jun. 1969 / a-H.G Peter e Mort Weisinger

The Cheetah, "the maddest and most ingenious of ego-maniacs," escapes from Paradise Island. The Cheetah assumes the role of a dancer and gives a show Wonder Woman's pals, the Holliday Girls, dress up as cheetahs and beat up and rob

12
SUPERMAN'S
GIRL
FRIEND
LOIS LANE
COULD SUPERMAN'S CLARK KENT DISGUISE FOOL YOU...ALL OF THE TIME...OR EVEN SOME OF THE TIME? SO HOW CAN HE KEEP ON FOOLING THE WORLD?
HERE IS THE STORY WE HOPE NEVER DARKEN PUBLICATION BEFORE!

***Add Super-Tact to the Man of Steel's long list of incredible powers. Art:* Kurt Schaffenberger *except for Superman's head which appears to be drawn by* Wayne Boring. *Superman's Girl Friend, Lois Lane #63. TM & © DC Comics. All rights reserved.***

billionaires. Wonder Woman shrinks. Steve Trevor shoots the Cheetah in the head.

**Quote:** "Boy, those gals have ooph!" - Steve Trevor at a "dance recital"

### The Day Flash Weighed 1000 Pounds!

*The Flash* #115 / NPP / Sep. 1960 / Reprinted in: *80 Page Giant* #4 / Oct. 1964 / a. Carmine Infantino & Joe Giella / s. John Broome / e. Julius Schwartz

Evil Gorilla Genius Grodd takes a pill that allows him to transfer his mind into a bald guy who gets a job training chimps at the circus. He has a gun that uses "starling new scientific principles" to turn the Flash into a circus fat man with amnesia. Flash sits on some potatoes and later taunts bald guy with his "hat pin weapon."

**Quote:** "Let's see, I have Flash's vibratory-aura number here in my memo book!" Solovar, Gorilla-City leader about to place a call

### The Death of the Six-Sided Sun

*House of Secrets* #80 / NPP / Sep.-Oct. 1966 / e. Jack Schiff

While driving downtown Prince Ra-Man, Mind Master, finds a giant in a yellow hat. The giant shrinks, makes a police car disappear, and causes Ra-man to float. Ra-Man fights back using a billboard. The former giant escapes. Ra-Man follows to another dimension for more battles and then returns to earth where he hides in a manhole. Ra-man's girlfriend complains that he seems pensive.

**Quote:** "I'll attempt one more attack with my mental beam - it has never failed me! By the six-sided sun —my beam falters...fails..." - Prince Ra-Man

### The Feud Between Batman and Superman

*World's Finest Comics* #143 / NPP / Aug. 1964 / a. Curt Swan & Sheldon Moldoff / e. Mort Weisinger

Batman is shot, gets an "inferiority complex," and quits the Batman-Superman team. Superman tries to build

...A WIRE THAT TRIPS AN ALARM IN A BIZARRE HOUSE BOAT SEVERAL MILES AWAY, ALERTING A STRANGE PERSON WHO CALLS HIMSELF... THE PIRANA!
CLANG! CLANG!
THE BURGLAR ALARM AT THE OCEANOGRAPHY VAULT!-- TIME FOR ME TO SWING INTO ACTION!

***Wonder why a man who needs to live in water has a houseboat with a giant fish tank instead of simply settling down in a nice ocean cave? Five words: Television doesn't work under water. From* Thrill-O-Rama *#2 (Sep. 1966) © Harvey***

up Batman's confidence by asking a friend in the bottle city of Kandor to commit crimes and mayhem. Jimmy Olsen and Superman put on new cloths and become Nightwing and Flamebird. Batman discovers Superman's plan, is angered, and so they duel with glowing swords.

**Quote:** "A duel? But I have no desire to kill Superman, no matter how shabbily he's treated me!" - an ungrateful Batman, showing some restraint

### The Origin of the Superman-Batman Team!

*Adventure Comics* #275 / NPP / Aug. 1960 / a George Papp e Mort Weisinger

Via a "strange invention" Superboy watches himself as an adult battle crime with Batman. Weeks later, by "odd coincidence," young Bruce Wayne moves to Smallville with his family. A robot crashes into a bank and Bruce puts on a "witch doctor's" costume to defeat it. Superboy and Bruce (as the Flying Fox) team up to fight crime. Superboy makes giant wax sculptures of three wanted criminals on a hillside. Bruce, in order to signal Superboy, turns the giant faces into candles Superboy hypnotizes Bruce to forget the whole thing.

**Quote:** "The transformation of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde into polyermic forms is a chemical change readily reversible!" - Bruce Wayne, smarty pants high school student

### The Revolt of the Assembled Man

*Blackhawk* #220 / NPP / May 1966 / a George Kashdan

In the Egyptian Room of the Metropolitan Museum an iron hand flies

THE REAPER HAD DESCRIBED THE FEARFUL WITCH ONLY TOO WELL. NEMESIS COULDN'T KEEP HER FACE OUT OF HIS DREAMS···AND THE FOUR LOST SOULS WHO HAD NEVER COME TO THE UNKNOWN HAUNTED THEM, TOO···

***This has to be a comic book first: Nemesis, a spirit superhero (he's dead?) not only sleeps in his costume but with his mouth open too. Art: Chic Stone.* Adventures Into The Unknown *#162. TM & © Best Syndicated Features, Inc.***

out and punches Blackhawk in the face. Two iron legs attack the remaining Blackhawks and Chop-Chop's shirt is stolen by two iron hands. The parts reassemble to form a robot who would rather solve math problems than steal for his maker, Professor Brayne. The robot steals "a top-secret chemical that can make an alloy withstand any force or temperature" (but isn't kept in anything so protected) and pours it on himself. The robot's separated head and hands then ride a rollercoaster

**Quote:** "Dunder! Vot are ve chasing just legs?" - an exasperated Hendrickson

**The Secrets of the Flying Bat-Cave**

*Detective Comics* #317 / NPP / Jul 1963 / a. Bob Kane e. Jack Schiff

Batman and Robin use the Flying Bat-Cave to foil a bank robbery by the Condor Gang (they wear bird head masks). The Flying Bat-Cave has a galley, bunk beds, a Bat-Racer (a smaller version of the Bat Mobile) and a Trophy Room ("Naturally, it is much smaller than the Trophy Room in the real Bat-Cave," Batman says grimly). An exploded fake giant rooster cuts off the Bat-Racer during a car chase

**Quote:** "I hope to be a detective someday! You see, Batman, I had a rough time when I was a kid! I was a hobo for a while before I got this chance to join the police—and I'm determined to make good!" - Joe Arno, chatty rookie cop

**Batman, Junior and Robin, Senior!**

*Batman* #182 / NPP / Jul -Aug. 1966 / a. Bob Kane / e. Jack Schiff

Stolen experimental gases cause Batman to become a boy and Robin to become a man. Batman's suit gets baggy and Robin's gets too tight. They rush home to change. The Dynamic Duo stop an out-of-control chariot race. Robin puts makeup on a bad guy.

**Quote:** "Look -That's Winders! You can tell a man at any age by his ears!" - Eagle-eyed Robin

**Birthday Cake for a Cannibal Robot!**

*Metal Men* #20 / NPP / Jun Jul 1966 / a. Andru & Esposito / e. Robert Kanigher

Tin, one of the Metal Men, turns into a giant vacuum to clean up remains of a giant robot Doc Magnus studies the giant's head in his lab. Dr. Yes, an egg-shaped "robot twin" of the oriental mastermind Egg Fu, orders the giant

head, via remote control, to swallow Doc Magnus. The Metal Men fight the other now animated giant robot parts by becoming staplers and then reassemble the robot. Two women dressed as monkeys dance in hanging cages as crowds gather to cheer the Metal Men. The giant robot carries the Metal Men to china and places them, like candles, into a large cake and then tries to eat them. Later, brainwashed by Dr. Yes, they denounce America at a baseball stadium and literally fall apart.

**Quote:** "Rooks rike I, Dr Yes have the rast raugh on you, Doc Magnus! *Translation: (Looks like I have the last laugh on you, Doc Magnus!)" - Dr. Yes speaks with a helpful and convenient translation"

### Frankenstein

*Frankenstein* #2 / Dell / Sep. 1966 / a: *Tony Tallarico* / s *Tony Tallarico*

A lightning bolt enters castle ruins "within sight of a great American metropolis" and revives a body dressed in red tights with a green head and white crew-cut. He wanders the ruins for two months, finds a mask of a normal human face, and part of a stone with the word "Frank" carved on it ("I will call myself Frank Stone!"). Stone finally leaves the ruins, now wearing his mask and a business suit, and pulls a rich man from a car wreck. The man, the son of a friend of Stone's long gone "doctor," dies and wills Stone his entire fortune Stone saves a woman, stops a robbery and goes "for a short trip."

**Quote:** "No man knows who they are, Frank. They only know what they think they are." A dying Henry Knickerbocker to Frank Stone

### Lost Souls!

*Adventures Into the Unknown* #162 / ACG / Feb. 1966 a: Chic Stone / s: Shane O'Shea (Richard E. Hughes) e: Richard E. Hughes

An efficiency expert comes to the "Unknown" - a place of spirits - and accuses the Grim Reaper of failing to find the souls of four dead people. Nemesis, a spirit hero, goes Big Shanty, Georgia circa 1892 to find the lost souls. A dinosaur illusion slows down a steam train, Nemesis becomes a giant to catch another train, makes a bunch of hawks explode, blows up a tree, battles flaming imps, goes to New Orleans during Mardi Gras, and tricks a giant cat into killing a witch.

**Quote:** "Whew—Wotta dream! But it's worse for the poor Grim Reaper — he may lose his job if he doesn't locate those lost souls! — Say, I'm his pal — why don't I volunteer to see what I can do?" Nemesis, a dead hero, gets a clue

### Interplanetary Olympics

*Jigsaw* #2 / Harvey / Dec. 1966 / e: Leon Harvey

Jigsaw, whose body is made up of colorful alien "synthetic tendons," goes to the Interplanetary Olympics where aliens compete in sports like Electronic Beam Racing, Giant Reptile Wrestling and an unnamed event involving snake stretching. Jigsaw annoys another athlete and so, according to the rules, must battle to the death.

**Quote:** "You infernal, glued-together earth freak!" Zarkow, Pulotanian and poor sport

### The Duel of the Gimmicks!

*Star Spangled Comics* #90 / NPP / Mar 1949 / Reprinted in *Adventure Comics* #416 / Mar 1972 / a. Winslow Mortimer / s: Otto Binder

Merry Pemberton, "the girl of a thousand gimmicks" pulls a bulletproof glove from her cape as a robber shoots. The second robber gets a face full of "dusting powder." The bad guys get away

and Merry goes to a department store The previous robber throws an exploding doll at Merry. She returns fire with a "spark gun." The bad guy sprays Merry with chloroform. She smacks him in the face with a mule's hoof attached to a retractable pole. Merry also launches a firecracker at the bad guy's face.

**Quote:** "For stealing gold, those crooks rate steel --steel bars!" - Merry, on observing a crime in progress

**The Man Who Sold Insurance to Superman!**

*Action Comics* #346 / NPP / Feb. 1967 / e. Mort Weisinger

An insurance salesman wants to marry the bosses' daughter but can't unless he sells Superman a life insurance policy for a hundred billion dollars Superman a physical (he passes), falls from a circus highwire, and swims with performing seals to prove he doesn't need insurance. Insurance agent uses kryptonite to force Superman to buy insurance with all of the charity organizations of the world as beneficiaries A spaceship from a pirate planet sends Superman to the Phantom Zone and so the insurance company has to pay off.

**Quote:** "It's all your fault! You sold Superman that policy. You're fired! Discharged! Canned! And the wedding is off!" - Boss to insurance salesman

**Quote:** "I can take a hint! So long!" Insurance salesman to boss

**[No Title]**

*Sub-Mariner* #34 / Atlas / Jun. 1954 /Reprinted in *Fantasy Masterpieces* #11

The State Department can't go after "red agents," who have stolen atomic powered sub-chaser plans, for reasons of "diplomatic strategy" so Sub-Mariner is asked to help. The Sub-Mariner swims out to where the red agents have taken the plans and built...a "scale model" of the Atomic Sub-Chaser. He takes the plans and the model by sharpening its prow to cut through a steel net. The Sub Mariner is called an American Swine, Filthy Capitalist Pig, Swine, Dirty Capitalist Dog, American Pig, Crook, Swindler, and Nervy, Fish-Faced Baboon. The Sub-Mariner, normally clothed only in tiny green swim trunks, wears a green business suit while visiting the State Department.

**Quote:** "Don't worry, buster, I'll miss the mine, all right...and you'll miss me..or I miss my guess!" - The Sub-Mariner, not one to miss a "miss" opportunity

**The Hero of 50,000,000 B.C.**

*Tales of the Unexpected* #90 / NPP / Aug. Sep. 1965 e. Jack Schiff

A Green Glob Adventure! Big-Game Hunter Reed McCall, "self-centered...egotistical...a loner!," is transported to the past where he encounters alien hunters running from a dinosaur. He easily traps the huge creature in a "small canyon." Then a Plutonian Unga Beast escapes from its cage and uses its multipurpose trunks (one has a tentacle, another spits lava) to terrorize McCall and the aliens. They are saved when the Unga Beast and another alien monster smack each other in the head, rendering both unconscious.

**Quote:** "Y-Yipes!" - Big Game Hunter Reed McCall reacts manfully to his new surroundings

**Beware! He Isn't Human!**

*Journey Into Mystery* #77 / Marvel / Feb 1962 Reprinted in *Fantasy Masterpieces* #10 / Aug. 1967 e. Stan Lee

"Eric Krugg, maker of movie monsters, wants to create something different. Something that will, "Destroy!

DESTROY!" so that a woman he wants will go out with him. The monster maker creates a robot shaped like a handsome man. The robot bends steel bars, breaks a table in half over his head, and walks up the side of a building.

**Quote:** "Listen, you little fool, I'm Eric Krugg! And when I like a girl .." - The Eric Krugg Love Technique

### Language-Master of Space!

*Mystery In Space* #67 / NPP / May 1961 / Reprinted in *From Beyond the Unknown* #23 / Jul.-Aug. 1973 / a: Sid Greene / s: Garner Fox / e: Julius Schwartz

Gideon Karr ("Star Wanderer, Planetary Adventurer, and Master Linguist!") is fascinated by the many ways intelligent beings communicate. On Slistilyssa they click their fingernails while the Sporrans of Arcturus-4 speak with "colored bubbles of vocal energy." Karr saves the life of an alien who tells him the location of legendary Fire Gems as a reward. Once on the planet Klyana, Karr casually notes that the entire population is standing completely still. After retrieving the gem Karr wants only to find a library or book store. Unfortunately, aliens attack Klyana. Fortunately, the Fire Gem has tremendous power only at precisely high noon.

**Quote:** "For ages man had made light from electricity! The Fire Gem—like a photo-electric cell—reverses the process, turning light into electricity! Actually, the Fire Gem turns light into an electrical discharge of raw, destructive fury!" - Gideon Karr gives The Explanation

### Lunar Goliaths

*Blast-Off* #1 / Harvey / Oct. 1965 / a: *Jack Kirby & Al Williamson* / e: Leon Harvey

The 3 Rocketeers (Sgt. Beefy Brown, Captain Kip McCoy, and Figures Faraday) build a "Tin Can Kayo Artist" (a boxing robot) to do battle with the robot from a space station. A meteor shower stops the robotic boxing match being held on a floating "fight platform" and conks one of the robots in its "brain case" causing the robot to become "human-like." Then the platform explodes.

**Quote:** "The 3 Rocketeers dream up a lulu of an idea in their idle hours. A boxing match of a fantastic nature! The fighters aren't human and the arena is somewhere out of this world! But the biggest surprise of all is the unexpected arrival of an unknown force that adds something not foreseen in the training of the LUNAR GOLIATHS." - Introduction

### Secret of the Tick-Tock World!

Reprinted in: *From Beyond the Unknown* #25 / NPP Nov.-Dec. 1973 / a: Carmine Infantino / s: Gardner Fox / e: Julius Schwartz

A spaceship on a test-run come across a solar system with a prehistoric planet. Other planets have Egyptian, Roman, medieval, and modern ('50s) themes all "amazingly similar" to earth. A "future" planet is completely "wrecked." The spaceship test pilot convinces the people of the "modern" planet to build giant watches and attach them to buildings.

**Quote:** "...it would take years to compare every detail of your civilization and mine to discover what might have prevented the [impending] storm!" - The test-pilot seconds before finding the one tiny difference between the doomed planet and his own

### The Fish-Men of Earth!

*Strange Adventures* #56 / NPP Sep. 1955 / Reprinted in: *From Beyond the Unknown* #10 / Apr.-May. 1971 a: Carmine Infantino & Bernard Sachs / s: John Broome / e: Julius Schwartz

Throughout the world people begin to float as if the air was "like water." Aliens reveal themselves to be responsible for

FOR TWO MONTHS THE STRANGE MAN WANDERS AMONG THE RUINS OF THE CASTLE LONELY AND AFRAID AT NIGHT HE DARES LEAVE THE SAFETY OF HIS FORTRESS TO WITNESS THE DARK WORLD THAT SURROUNDS HIM BUT BY DAY HE FORCES HIMSELF TO REMAIN IN HIDING UNSURE OF WHAT HE MUST DO
THESE BOOKS. THIS MASK. THIS STONE THEY ARE ALL I HAVE TO TELL ME WHO I AM THE DOCTOR SPOKE OF A STRANGE SOCIETY OF THE FUTURE CAN IT BE THAT I HAVE AWAKENED IN THAT SOCIETY? I MUST FIND OUT BUT I MUST NOT BETRAY MY REAL IDENTITY THE DOCTOR WARNED ME AND THE BOOK ALSO SAYS THE SAME THING
KANK

***The "new" Frankenstein—this time not a monster but a super hero—happens to find a rubber mask and a useful chunk of rock in an especially well-stocked lab. Story and art: Tony Tallarico.* Frankenstein *#2. TM & © Dell***

the change. Bullets and missiles don't travel far enough in the thick air ("It's like firing in water!") to be effective against the aliens. Scientists find the "glowing object" causing the air to grow dense but cannot get near it as the air is at its thickest ("like invisible steel!") at its point of origin. So the scientist dig under the object and bury it.

**Quote:** "Run—Swim for your lives!"- whiney cowards quickly adapt to new challenges

### Clark Kent's Masquerade As Superman!

*Action Comics* #331 / NPP / Dec. 1965 / e: Mort Weisinger

The entire world believes that Clark Kent is Superman thanks to a fake edition of The Daily Planet masterminded by Lois Lane. To save the paper's reputation Clark suggests that they play up the hoax as a "Circulation Stunt" certain that readers will "chuckle at the way they fell for it." Clark puts on a Superman suit and bullet proof vest that editor Perry White happens to have in his office. Perry doubts that anyone will believe that Clark and Superman are one once he sees Clark in tights and cape. Clark (as Superman) falls from tall buildings twice and pretends to die when shot by a bullet. Lois weeps at losing someone, "full of quiet fun!...an ideal escort!. ."

**Quote:** "Help! Pull me up! And get this pigeon off my head!" Clark Kent hanging from a building while pretending to be Superman

### The End of the Fantastic Four!

*Fantastic Four* #9 / Marvel / Dec. 1962 / Reprinted in *Marvel Collectors Item Classics* #6 / Dec. 1966 / a: Jack Kirby & Dick Ayers / s: Stan Lee / e: Stan Lee

The Fantastic Four go bankrupt, creditors hound them. A cabbie refuses to pick up the Thing so the Thing picks up the cabbie — in his cab ("Hey! Let me down! No! Stop! Hallllp!"). The Fantastic Four are offered one million dollars to star in a Hollywood movie. Broke, the Fantastic Four hitch hike to California. At the studio the Thing asks for directions from Jackie

Gleason. The studio head turns out to be the Sub-Mariner. The Thing goes to the beach. Filming of the movie involves a cyclops, African natives, and a volcano.

**Quote:** "Some rotten manager you were, rubber-man! You made a fortune by selling patents on all your inventions enough for years—but you hadda be a big shot and invest it all in stocks! You lunkhead!" - The Thing is as one dissatisfied.

### The Ghost of Batman

*World's Finest Comics* #139 / NPP / Feb. 1964 / e Jack Schiff

Superman pretends to be Batman so that Bruce Wayne can prove to Kathy Kane (Batwoman) that he isn't Batman An explosion "impossible" to survive puts Robin in the hospital (briefly) and apparently kills Batman (who is really Superman). In order to maintain his cover Bruce Wayne and Superman have to come up with some explanation as to why Batman survived the blast. So Superman pretends to be the ghost of Batman Confused, Robin believes that the real Batman is dead and walks the streets of Gotham weeping. Batman pretends to be Superman and has to be carried by the "ghost" of Batman to appear to being flying. Some bad guys get wrapped up in a giant role of newspaper newsprint.

**Quote:** "[Robin will] be all right, Bruce! But I've got news for you you're dead!" - Superman (as Batman) to Bruce Wayne

### The Masterminds of Crime!

*Batman* #70 / NPP / Apr May 1952 / Repr nted n. *Batman* #238 / Jan 1972 / a Win Mortimer

A crime academy, using F.B.I. training methods, teach "the cream of manhood" to commit crimes "scientifically and intelligently." A blackboard has a simple lesson: "Defeat Batman." Students have guns instead of notebooks on their desks. Bruce Wayne, in disguise, joins the crime academy. The two top students, Wayne is one, must compete in contests dressed as Batman to determine the crime academy's new leader. Wayne loses every event (involving giant slide rules and enormous picture puzzles depicting crimes) to the other "Batman" and becomes "completely deflated." Wayne lies to get his opponent in trouble and pretends to be the wrong Batman in front of Robin as "a gag."

**Quote:** "I've never been so low!" - Batman reacts poorly to losing

***Well, now that is frightening—a robot who eats his cake upside down! Eeek! Art: Andru & Esposito.* Metal Men #6 (Dec. 1966) ™ & © DC Comics. All rights reserved.**

### The Micro-World of Doctor Doom!

*Fantastic Four* #16 / Marvel / Ju. 1963 / Reprinted n.

YOU ARE WORTHY OF ME, FEMALE! IN EVERY WAY! BUT HERE IS A POWER YOU CANNOT COMBAT! THE RADAR SENSE OF THE CAVE FISH FROM THE LOWEST DEPTHS OF THE SEA!
THEY HAVE NO EYES, BUT CAN SENSE THE PRESENCE OF OTHERS BY USING THEIR RADAR TYPE INSTINCTS! AS I SHALL DO WITH YOU!

***I'm not an expert on Namor or creatures of the world's deep oceans but I'm pretty sure somebody's pulling my leg here. Art by Jack Kirby & Dick Ayers. Marvel Collectors Item Classics #6 (Dec. 1966) ™ & © MEG. All rights reserved.***

*Marvel Collectors Item Classics* #11 / Sep., 1967 / a: Jack Kirby & Dick Ayers / s: Stan Lee / e: Stan Lee

The Human Torch gets back to the Baxter Building to find the rest of the Fantastic Four tiny but they get better. Ant-Man stops by to give shrinking advice. Later the Human Torch heats up "wienies" and flies through rocks at a "teen age picnic." Invisible Girl buys perfume and attracts a bunch of dogs Dr Doom shrinks the Fantastic Four and sends them to a village in the "Micro-World."

**Quote:** "Boy! Even elevator shoes wouldn't help him!" - The Thing sizes up Ant-Man"

**The Satanic Schemes of S.K.U.L.!**

*Superman's Girl Friend, Lois Lane* #63 / NPP / Feb. 1966 a: Kurt Schaffenberger / e: Mort Weisinger

A glowing red skeleton lights candles in the shape of Superman and his friends. The head of the Jimmy Olsen candle is completely melted away. A temporary Editor In Chief at the daily planet, Van Benson, takes Lois Lane to the Kitten Club. A former date of Van's slaps Lois Lane. Van buy's Lois a stuffed tiger. The club's stare attraction is a woman cracking a whip. Lois discovers that a pair of Van's glasses has a picture of Superman choking She snoops through Van's files and finds a hollowed out book with other items, each with pictures of Superman choking. Lois, hoping to get Superman's attention, flings herself out of the Daily Planet building. She lands in a truck of tomatoes. Lois goes undercover at the Kitten Club as Mademoiselle Magic (thanks to Expando-Gas, a heat jewel, and a weight nullifier ray built into a cigarette lighter - all borrowed from Jimmy Olsen). Skeletons throw imitation Krytonite at a Superman skeleton.

**Quote:** "What goes on here?" - Lois Lane while falling out of the Daily Planet building

**[No Title]**

*Thrill O Rama* #2 / Harvey / Sep 1966 / e: Leon Harvey

Generalissimo Brainstorm, "a powerhouse of mental energy" instructs men inside torpedoes to commit crimes When he uses his mental powers Brainstorm's head sparks noisily ("Snap! Crackle! Pop!") Our hero, the Pirana, watches TV while relaxing in a large fish tank. Brainstorm hits Pirana in the face with an ordinary hammer. Electric eels cause Brainstorms mental commands to be misunderstood by his underlings ("Crackle Crackle FIZZZ!"). Features Bara and Cuda, the amazing Piranapets

**Quote:** "H-Huh...? Some crazy skin diver...attacking us!" unimpressed bad guys react to the Pirana's debut

*It was a crazy, insane thing to do but I knew that I had a ruinous rendezvous with Romance Comics. What was it about them that drew me into their supple pages? Was it the voluptuous art? The turgid prose? The proud and heaving moralizing yearning to break free? Yes. YES! A THOUSAND TIMES YES! It was all those things and more. I knew that I was courting disaster but I had to confront the brutal, shocking truth about Romance Comics and their tragic confession...*

| Title | Situation | She Is | He Is | Then She | Tears |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Sweet Mystery of Love** | Debbie loves Cary | on vacation | a doctor | meets someone else | Regret |
| **The Bet** | Louise hates Mark | a spoiled rich kid | a trust fund manager | meets someone else | None |
| **I Was A Girl Who'd Stop At Nothing** | Janice dates Hal | desperate to be a star | a director | meets someone else | None |
| **Midnight Lover** | Jan leaves Brad | unhappy | unhappy | meets someone else | None |
| **I Sinned Against Love** | Gail marries Ron | interested in other men | not a good kisser | meets someone else | Regret |
| **Uncertain Heart** | Mary loves two | undecided | [They are] crazy about Mary | marries one | Shame |
| **Trailer Bride!** | Lucy marries Rance | not thrilled to live in a trailer | eagar to see the country | gets "car sick" | Happiness |

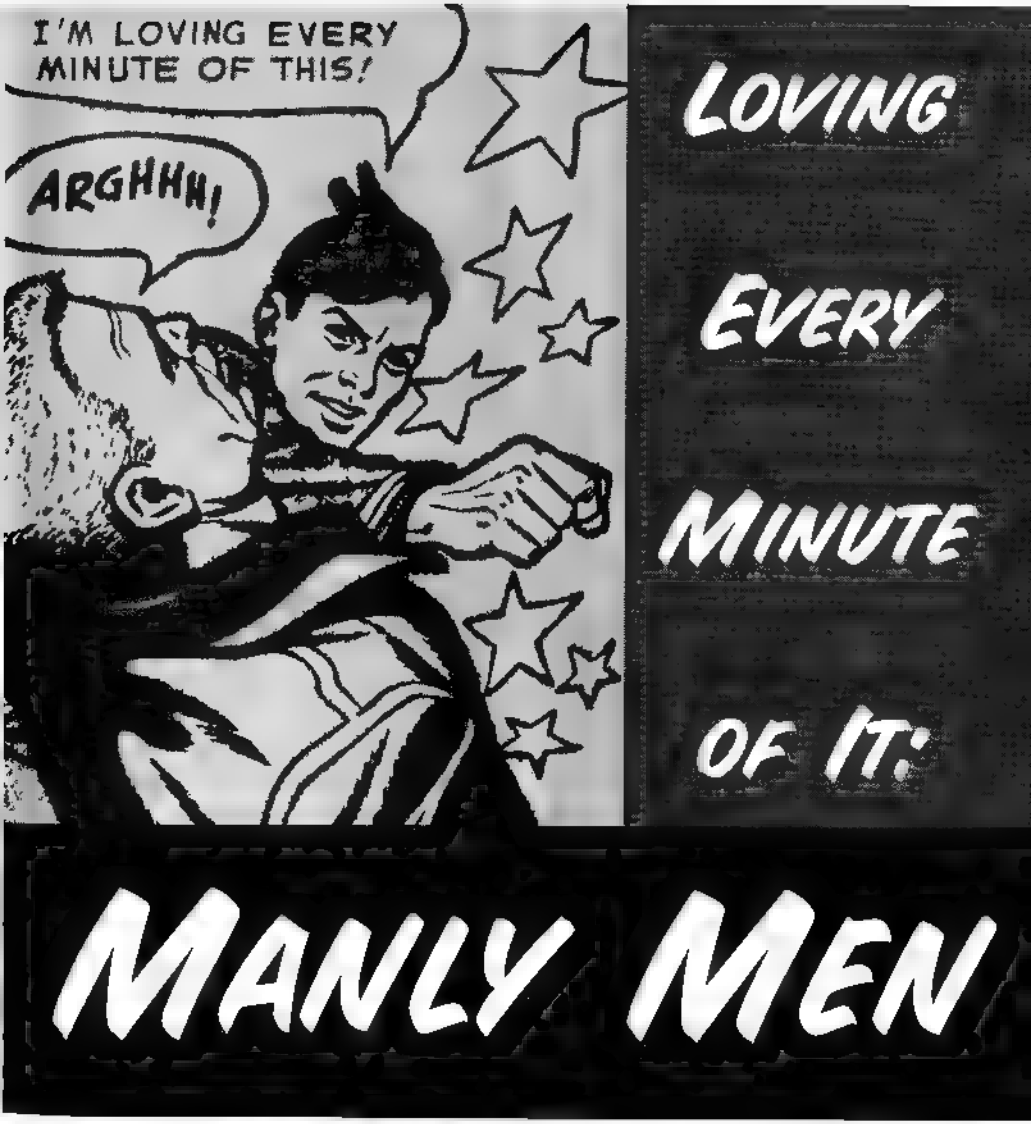
# NO ONE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT LOVE

| He Says | She Says | Publication |
|---|---|---|
| "You're much prettier than the girl on the screen, Debbie!" | "No one knows anything about love!" | **Hearth Throbs** #109 DC (Aug.-Sep. 1967) |
| "I never would have believed that a scatterbrain like you could make it." | "Will you shut up? I would like to kiss you!" | **Girl's Love Stories** #168 DC (Apr. 1972) |
| "Aww, I'm sorry, honey! It's just that you really turn me on—" | "Well, you can turn yourself right off again, man! | **My Love** #17 Marvel (May 1972) |
| "My princess from the sea has come back—at last!!" | "Never to leave her prince! And what she once thought was just a dream has become the only reality!!" | **Hi-School Romance** #33 Harvey (Nov. 1954) |
| "I'm due in camp in less than three hours! We'll have to postpone our— our honeymoon till I get out of [the] service!" | "It's better that way, darling...a green oasis to dream of while we wait in the desert of loneliness!" | **First Love Illustrated** #21 Harvey (Sep. 1952) |
| "We're lucky guys, Sam! We've got the two most beautiful girls in the world!" | "We're lucky girls, Rita! We've got the two nicest guys!" | **Love Experiences #38** Ace (Jun. 1956) |
| "South for the winter— and north for the summer! Always a new changing background for our love!" | "That's the only thing that doesn't change, that will never change—our love!" | **True Bride to Be Romances** #19 Harvey (Aug. 1956) |

# My First Comic Book Story

*This is the first original comic book story I ever attempted (I was around 8 or 9 years old). My choice of subject matter was obviously inspired by two of the first comics I ever bought:* **House of Mystery** *#111 and* **Where Creatures Roam** *#2. Those comics featured the work of Neal Adams, Bernie Wrightson, Jack Kirby, and Steve Ditko. Unfortunately, their influence is not evident in the art reproduced below.*

The Mystery of Mr. TiTan
what do you think the Old man would do?
I don't Know
What are you doing in my house!
Pow!!
Shoot it!
No!
And his body was never found!
I Know what happened
What happened To Mr. TiTan?




***Male. Fellow. Chap. Mister. Guy.***

***Man has many names but in old comic books he rarely rates more than the most basic of personalities. The bad guys kill, rob, and steal. While the good guys are content to be honest, selfless, and completely willing to solve problems with brute force. Here's a sample of the ways of the manly man in comics. Hop to it, pal. We ain't got all day!***

## MANLY MANNERS

**"Okay! Okay! Stop sounding like a poster! You did your good deed for today! Blow!"**

-Young man graciously receiving mail from a postman

*Fighting Fronts* #5 Harvey (Jan 1953)

I DO WHAT I WANT WHEN I WANT! GRAB THIS! IN OR OUTTA THIS BRIG, I BUST THE WORLD AROUND! I TAKE WHAT'S COMING TO SOCKER BATES!
I CAN SEE THAT! THANKS!

***How a man shares food and advice. From* Foxhole *#2 (Dec. 1954) © Mainline***

## MANLY FAITH

**"Well, Lord, he's dead now! I'm a soldier and I don't claim to be expert at praying, but I do know this—he was a good American and a swell guy! Please take care of him..."**

- Prayer over a dead soldier

*Men In Action* #3 Ajax/Farrell (Sep 1957)

***How to stop unwanted noise. From* Men In Action *#6 (1958) © Four Star Comic Corp.***

## MANLY FRIENDSHIP

**"Man, just can't do a job any more without stupid personal feelings gumming up the works!"**

- Mercenary pilot "Dollar Bill" Cash to a friend he just rescued

*Warfront* #37 Harvey (Sep. 1966)

## MANLY COMMUNICATION

**"TALK WITH YER GUN, KID...NOT YER MOUTH!"**

- A old soldier's advice for a rookie

*Fighting Fronts* #5 Harvey (Jan. 1953)

## LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE LADIES

**"Aw, all women are dizzy pet! Blondes only seem dizzier because they're light-headed!"**

- Ken Shannon to secretary

*Police Comics* #114 Quality (Apr. 1952)

**"You're cute, honey—as cute as a pit viper! I may lose, but you'll never win!"**

-T-man to cunning villainess

*T-Man* #37 Quality (Oct. 1956)

## MANLY WARNING

**"The Sun won't rise on the day I can't take you!"**

-Two business partners in a fist fight

*Foxhole* #2 Ma n me (Nov -Dec. 1954)

## MANLY PHILOSOPHY

**"The odds are against me, but by the time I'm through you'll know you've been in a fight!"**

-T-man against about a half dozen guys

*T-Man* #37 Qual ty (Oct 1956)

**"So I don't get to be a pitcher! But I've got life—and confidence! That's enough for any man!"**

Failed ballplayer turned soldier after killing the enemy

*Fighting Fronts* #5 Harvey (Jan. 1953)

LOOK, GALE, WHY DON'T YOU RUN BACK TO THE HOUSE AND PREPARE US A COUPLE OF DRINKS AND FIX AN ICEBAG FOR MY HEAD! I'LL FOLLOW MORE LEISURELY!
WELL... ALL RIGHT! BUT THERE AREN'T MANY MEN WHO'D SEND ME AWAY ON A MOONLIGHT NIGHT, MR. KENT BLAKE! SEE YOU IN A FEW MINUTES!

***How to make nice with the ladies. From* Kent Blake of the Secret Service *#5 (1952) © MEG***

## MANLY SELF-CONTROL

**"WHY, FOR TWO CENTS, I'D--I'D--"**

- Angry soldier kept from attacking the enemy

*Warfront* #19 Harvey (Feb. 1954)

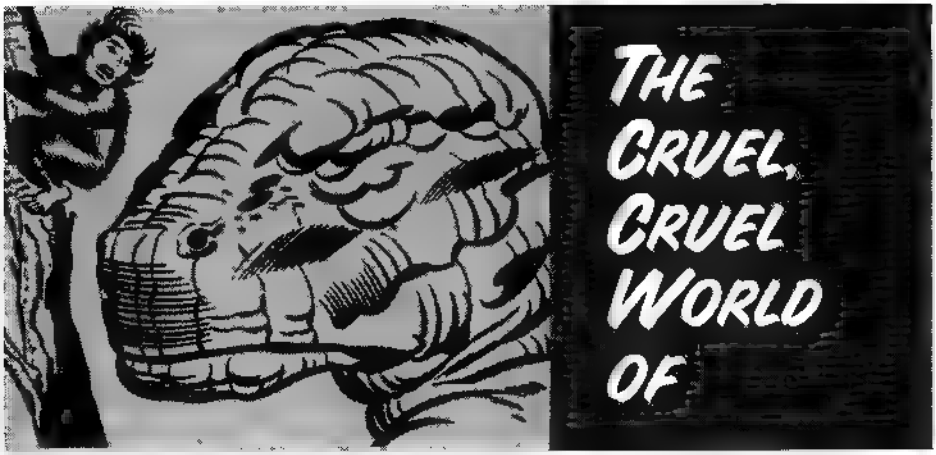
## MANLY ENTERTAINMENT

**"I'd sure like to pump hot lead into some Reds, Harry. Too bad it's so quiet around here, eh?"**

- Eager soldier

*Fighting Fronts* #5 Harvey (Jan. 1953)

**THAT'S IT. SHOW'S OVER. SCRAM!**




DEVIL DINOSAUR and MOON-BOY Art Jack Kirby & Mike Royer TM & © MEG

"The fun side of our job is now to probe [Devil Dinosaur's] world and translate its wonders into entertaining visions to hold your modern eyes...Just ahead lies all the fun and games which Darwin missed."

- *Jack Kirby, in his first issue introduction to* Devil Dinosaur.

Jack Kirby may have been one of the nicest, kindest men in the field of comics but his vision of a primortial world of red dinosaurs and proto-men shows a cold, hard place to live as the following examples should illustrate.

## HATEFUL INSULTS

### "YOU'RE NOT FIT TO CATCH SNAILS!"

- Grey-Tooth *Devil Dinosaur #8*

### "BEGONE! YOU LACK THE STRENGTH TO CRACK AN EGG!"

- Eev *Devil Dinosaur #6*

### "MOUNTAINOUS DOLT!"

- Moon-Boy of the Small-Folk *Devil Dinosaur #3*

# DEVIL DINOSAUR!

## PAINFUL ROMANCE

**He:** "Don't you understand!? I like you! I want you! The spirits have brought us together! Would you defy them?"

**She:** The spirits have spoken to you—not to me!"
*Devil Dinosaur* #6

## BAD ENTERTAINMENT

Moon-Boy is tied up and menaced by the Long-Legs (giant spider). "[The sharp claws] will pierce him until he is stiffened by their poison! It will be pleasing to watch!"
-an appreciative apeman
*Devil Dinosaur* #2

## TERRIBLE DEVICES

**Odor-Bag**
Causes the mind of dinosaurs to "grow dull."
*Devil Dinosaur* #8

## LOUD NOISES

**"BONK BONK BONK"**

The sound of Devil Dinosaur "disabling" a space alien with the business side of his foot.
*Devil Dinosaur* #4

## DARK MORALITY

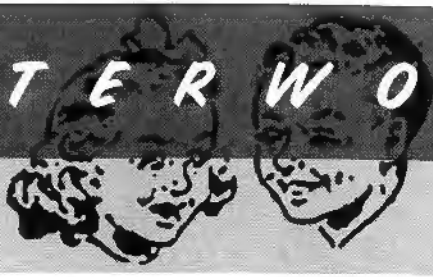
Some apemen want to kill a baby dinosaur. One apeman offers to club it to death. "No," argues another apeman, "this one has wounded many of us! He shall perish by fire!" For a third apeman this poses a moral dilemma: "But we've never killed this way! Is it the right thing to do?" The matter is dropped after a "fire mountain" erupts.
*Devil Dinosaur* #1

# ONLY IN COMICS

ELSEWHERE IN THE LABORATORY---
BO-O-M!
WHA--- THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION IN THE INVENTION ROOM!
I THINK I'LL BE MORE EFFECTIVE IF I CHANGE THESE PAJAMAS OF CAPTAIN ALBRIGHT TO THE RED SUIT OF---
---MIGHTY CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT!

*[ABOVE] Sad devotion to duty or weird fetish? You decide. From* **Captain Midnight** *#64 (Jun. 1948) © Fawcett [BELOW, LEFT] Dynamite Joe, the "Blast-Crazy Marine," apparently thinks that mere guns are for sissies.* **Warfront** *#37 (Sep. 1966) © Harvey [BELOW, RIGHT] Len (Dynamo) Brown isn't nearly as thrilled by the idea of a island-based "Dinosaur Zoo" as, say, Steven Spielberg would be nearly thirty years later.* **THUNDER Agents** *#4 (Apr. 1966) © Tower*

# AFTERWORD



It's a cliche, of course, but nevertheless true: this issue would not be possible without the efforts of Dan Vado, Craig Pape, and the rest of the SLG Publishing crew. It was Dan's idea to take my little self-produced, small-press fanzine and turn it into the slick, fabulous small-press publication you're looking at right now. If you like COMIC BOOK HEAVEN and you'd like to see more of it produced in this Big Time Professional Way then let Dan know how much you love it. While you're at it, let your retail source also know. And tell your mom (she deserves to know what you're up to).

COMIC BOOK HEAVEN may or may not continue as a fancy magazine. It dosen't really matter all that much though. I'm likely to keep producing it in one form or another so keep your eyes peeled for future issues.

## REFERENCE

*The Jack Kirby Checklist* in *The Art of Jack Kirby* by Ray Wyman Jr. and Catherine Hohlfeld, *The Curt Swan Checklist* by Raul Wrona (*Comic Book Marketplace* #57, Mar. 1998), Ditko Looked Up: Blake Bell's Steve Ditko Web Site (http://www.interlog.com/~ditko37/ditko.html), and *The Photo-Journal Guide to Comic Books* by Ernst and Mary Gerber.

## BACK ISSUES - BUY OR TRADE

**Trade:** Photocopies of vintage comic book stories will get you *CBH* back issues. I'll trade on a page for a page basis (a 16 page story gets you a 16 page issue of *CBH*) Please send a postcard first to address below giving me at least a general idea of what you want to send. I don't expect to get original comics but that's okay too (duh). Thanks.

**Buy:** All back issues of *Comic Book Heaven* are currently in print. *CBH* 1 - 4 (16 pgs., dtp'd) are $1 each (postage paid). *CBH* 5, 6 & 7 (24, 32 & 28 pgs. respectively, dtp'd) are $2 each (postage paid). Payment in US funds only please.

**SEND MAIL AND BACK ISSUE ORDERS TO:**

**Scott Saavedra, PO Box 2363, Saratoga, CA 95070-0363**

**Visit Scott-Land at :** http://members.aol.com/scottjava

# Aieee!

## It's the Comic Book Heaven T-Shirt!

## All-Powerful! 100% Cotton!

**Only $15.95!!!**

Toll-free: 1-800-866-8929 • Fax orders: (408) 279-0451
Mail: SLG Publishing, 325 South First St., Suite #301San Jose, CA 95113
Shipping: $2.50 for 1st shirt, $1.00 for each additional. Available in large and x-large sizes (please indicate).

## FOOLS, IT IS USELESS TO RESIST!!!